

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 13620 071018Z
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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 CCO-00 /009 W
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O 070650Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8075
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 13620

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

AF FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE

E.O. 11652: NGDS
TAGS: SCUL, NI, OEXC
SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF FESTAC LIAISON OFFICER: NEGOTIATIONS WITH NAZ

REF: STATE 293979

1. EMBASSY AND AF/W DIRECTOR APPROVE OF DESIGNATION AF/P
DIRECTOR AS FULL TIME LIAISON OFFICER, AND HOPE AF AND CU
WILL SUPPORT HIM TO FULLEST EXTENT. WE AGREE THAT APPROACH
PROPOSED REFTEL SHOULD BE TRIED.

2; WHILE WE BELIEVE NEGOTIATING TACTICS CAN ONLY BE DECIDED
BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH ZONAL
COMMITTEE, WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT MAY WISH RECONSIDER
DECISION NOT REPEAT NOT DIVULGE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS REGAFDING
CONTROL OF FUNDS RAISED BY FRIENDS OF FESTAC. DONALDSON MAY BALK AT
ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH ADDITIONAL FUNDS DESCRIBED REFTEL
PARAS 3(C) AND (D) WOULD BE CONTROLLED BY CU AND AD HOC
GROUP. HE MAY RETURN TO HIS ALL OR NOTHING POSITION AND
THREATEN ZERO US REPRESENTATION AT FESTAC IN THE EXPECTATION
THAT THIS WOULD BRING US TO MEET HIS FULL CONDITIONS. SUCH
REFUSAL OF COOPERATION ON HIS PART WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT
TO HANDLE LATER. THUS WE SUGGEST THAT OUR VIEWS ON CONTROL OF
NEW FUNDS BE MADE CLEAR TO DONALDSON AT THE OUTSET SO THAT
DHOWDOWN, IF THIS PROVES INEVITABLE, CAN BE FACED NOW.

3. IF DONALDSON REFUSES TO COOPERATE, WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 13620 071018Z

SHOULD ASSURE HIM WE APPRECIATE HIS SITUATION, THE COMMITMENTS

HE HAS MADE TO VARIOUS POTENTIAL PERFORMERS, AND THE DIFFICULTIES AND EMBARRASSMENT THAT WOULD RESULT IF HE IS OBLIGED TO ABBREVIATE THE LIST AT THIS POINT. HE SHOULD BE TOLD THAT REFTEL PROPOSAL NONETHELESS OFFERS MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE USG CAN PROVIDE HIM AT THIS LATE DATE. IF DONALDSON UNWILLING ACCEPT THIS, DEPARTMENT MIGHT SUGGEST THAT HIS RESIGNATION WOULD TAKE HIM OFF THE HOOK WITH RESPECT TO DISAPPOINTED PERFORMERS, AS SUBSEQUENT SELECTION OF REPRESENTATION WOULD BE RESPONSIBILITY OF OTHERS.

4. IF DONALDSON MAINTAINS HIS ALL OR NOTHING POSITION AND REFUSES TO COOPERATE, WE SUGGEST BEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR US TO APPROACH FESTIVAL PRESIDENT FINGESI, PRESENT HIM THE FULL PICTURE, EMPHASIZE OUR DESIRE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE US REPRESENTATION IN FESTAC BUT OUR INABILITY TO PRODUCE FINANCING ON THE SCALE DONALDSON REQUIRES, POINTING OUT HIS LACK OF ANYTHING CONCRETE TO SHOWIFOR \$150,000 ALREADY ADVANCED HIM BY USG, AND SUGGEST THE DESIRABILITY OF FINGESI REDESIGNATING NAZ RESPONSIBILITIES FROM DONALDSON AND CO. TO ZONAL COMMITTEE INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM AAI OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION WITH WHICH DEPARTMENT COULD WORK EFFECTIVELY.

5.COMMENT: IT OCCURS TO US THAT SOME OR ALL OF ZONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS MIGHT BE WILLING COOPERATE WITH PROPOSED NEW INITIATIVE EVEN IF DONALDSON IS NOT. IN ANY EVENT IT WOULD BE PRESUMABLY PREFERABLE TO KEEP COMMITTEE IN EXISTENCE IF POSSIBLE. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, ZONAL COMMITTEE IS THE ONLY BODY DESIGNATED TO RECEIVE TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO FINANCE PARTICIPATION IN FESTAC.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNITY RELATIONS, FUND ALLOTMENT, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS13620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760451-0561
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761267/aaaacfor.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 76 STATE 293979
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSIGNMENT OF FESTAC LIAISON OFFICER: NEGOTIATIONS WITH NAZ
TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, NI, FESTAC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006